

West at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Chattanooga. After President Lincoln appointed him Lieutenant-General of the Army in 1864, he commanded all Union armies until the conclusion of the war. At Appomattox, Grant prescribed terms of surrender intended to set the stage for postwar reconciliation.

Grant's legacy extends beyond his role in the Civil War. Grant was elected the 18th President of the United States in 1868 and was decisively elected to a second term in 1872, the only two-term President between Abraham Lincoln and Woodrow Wilson. As President, he oversaw the orderly readmittance of States following the Civil War, completing the restoration of the Union by 1871.

An ardent supporter of Reconstruction, President Grant championed the ratification of the 15th Amendment to prohibit discrimination in voting rights on the basis of "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." In 1870, he oversaw the creation of the Department of Justice, essential to the prosecution of the Ku Klux Klan and enforcement of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, the "Reconstruction Amendments."

Grant was an advocate for civil rights, endorsing and then signing the Civil Rights Act of 1875 to outlaw racial segregation in public accommodations, schools, transportation, and juries, nearly a century before such protections would be effectively enforced.

And although President Theodore Roosevelt is most often associated with our National Parks, it was President Grant who designated Yellowstone as the first National Park in 1872.

After his presidency, Grant traveled the world and wrote his memoirs. "The Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant" became a bestseller and garnered lasting critical acclaim, praised by Mark Twain for its "clarity of statement, directness, simplicity, unpretentiousness, manifest truthfulness, fairness and justice toward friend and foe alike, soldierly candor and frankness, and soldierly avoidance of flowery speech."

As I said yesterday on the Senate floor, history has not always been kind to Grant. But as we commemorate his 200th birthday, his legacy is being re-evaluated and his far-reaching impact more fully appreciated. Frederick Douglass eulogized Grant as "a man too broad for prejudice, too humane to despise the humblest, too great to be small at any point." I urge my colleagues to join Senator BLUNT and I in honoring one of Ohio's finest, Ulysses S. Grant, for these remarkable qualities, for his role in preserving the Union of the United States as a general in the Civil War, and for his defense of Reconstruction and Civil Rights as President.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTIAN BRAUN

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Christian Braun of Burlington, KS.

Christian was one of the outstanding University of Kansas—KU—players who helped lead the team to their National Championship game victory. He is a fan favorite who was nominated for Academic All-American and an American All-Big 12 First Team honoree in 2020, 2021, and 2022. Braun's former coach Ed Fritz said that what makes him stand out is his honesty. He is not afraid to be quick to praise or hold teammates accountable. I think this quality is what helped KU get to the National Championship and is a great reflection of Kansas values as a whole. His performance in the championship was nothing short of spectacular. He showed great leadership and dedication in getting the team to this win.

I want to congratulate and thank Mr. BRAUN for all the hours he put into practicing and helping form this outstanding team. It takes great dedication and determination to get where he is. The hours spent practicing and perfecting his game helped KU get to this National Championship. This victory will not be forgotten by Kansans—or at the very least in Overland Park where Christian has his own day now after winning this championship. Thank you for all you have done to represent the great State of Kansas. We all thoroughly enjoyed watching Christian play and can't wait to see what he does next. It is my honor to congratulate him, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this wonderful win and wish him nothing but the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO ZACH CLEMENCE

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Zach Clemence, one of the outstanding University of Kansas—KU—players who helped lead the team to their National Championship game victory. Zach, who plays forward for the team, was a highly touted prospect for the Jayhawks coming out of Sunrise Christian Academy in Bel Aire, KS. This is Zach's first year with the Jayhawks, and he ends the season as a National Champion.

I want to congratulate and thank Mr. Clemence for all the hours he put into practicing and helping form this outstanding team. It takes great dedication and determination to get to where he is. No doubt, his effort and energy during games or in practice played a major factor in the KU winning the National Championship. This victory will not be forgotten by Kansans and will go down in history. We thank Zach for all he has done to represent the great State of Kansas. We all thoroughly enjoyed watching KU play this season and certainly can't wait to see what Zach accomplishes in the future. It is my honor to congratulate Zach, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this wonderful victory and in wishing Zach nothing but the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS TEAHAN

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Chris Teahan of Leawood, KS.

Chris was one of the outstanding University of Kansas—KU—players who helped lead the team to KU's fourth NCAA Men's Basketball Championship. He is a fan favorite who committed to the Jayhawks as a guard as a walk-on for the team and has made an impact on the program ever since, even earning a spot on the All-Academic Big 12 Second team last year. He currently holds a sports management degree and plans to pursue a graduate degree as he leaves KU basketball as a super-senior and a national champion.

Chris attributes a lot of his success to his mom for pushing him to be the best. He said he looks back on the time they spent together in the gym as special, even if it came in moments he didn't want to be there. She knew he had it in him; he just needed to see it, too. I want to congratulate and thank Mr. Teahan for all the hours he put into practicing and helping form this outstanding team. This victory will not be forgotten by Kansans. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this wonderful success and wish him nothing but the best in the following years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARY JO MORGAN "MIMI" WEDGEWORTH

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, last week, my beautiful mother Mary Jo Morgan Wedgeworth passed out of this world and into the arms of our Lord. She left with all those who were blessed to know her a lifetime of wonderful memories and a legacy of love, friendship, and service.

My mother was a lifelong resident of Laurel, MS. During her youth, she was the 1944 winner of the National 4-H Club Girl Achievement award and the President's Trophy. This was awarded to her at the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. She continued to be an active participant in Mississippi 4-H Club programs, serving in numerous leadership roles and always serving as a local 4-H club leader. She served on the Mississippi 4-H Club board and as president of the Mississippi Extension Service Homemakers and FCE Club.

She was a member of First Baptist Church and active in women's programs and Sunday school. She especially loved providing beautiful flower arrangements made with cuttings from her garden for church events.

She was active in the Mississippi Council of Garden Clubs, where she served as president, and the Deep South Garden Club Council as a nationally accredited flower show judge and in the Waynesboro Drive Garden Club. She was known for her entertaining and educational programs on flower-arranging, gardening, and recycling. In